

BOOK REVIEWS

TEXTBOOK OF PEDIATRICS. Edited by Waldo E. Nelson, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Temple University School of Medicine, with the collaboration of 63 contributors. Fifth edition with 426 illustrations, 19 in color. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1950. \$12.50.

The fifth edition of Mitchell and Nelson's "Textbook of Pediatrics" represents a thorough going-over and perfecting of the widely accepted fourth edition. Each chapter has been thoroughly revised and rewritten and many new chapters have been added. Improvements worthy of mention which are in keeping with the need for background knowledge in the care of children are the chapters on "Growth and Development" and "Mental and Emotional Development." These chapters have been thoroughly rewritten and enlarged upon, providing a most excellent orientation to the "pediatric way of thinking" in the application of medical knowledge to infants and children.

Of particular interest is the handling of the chapters "Disturbances of Fluid and Electrolyte Equilibrium" and "Parenteral Fluid Therapy." These subjects, always difficult to present clearly, have been presented in a brief, concise, and practical manner. The student as well as the practitioner can find a quick qualitative and quantitative answer to diagnostic and therapeutic problems in acid-base and dehydration disorders.

In an effort to make the textbook eminently practical, each author, in addition to the didactic dissertation of the specific disease, has presented clear-cut therapeutic programs for the handling of the specific disease. The quality of the text was present in the first three editions under the editorship of Griffith and Mitchell and has been successfully maintained and improved upon by Nelson. Finally, of great value is the presence of an appendix which provides ready reference to normal blood and urine values in infants and children of various ages. Included are normal cerebrospinal fluid values; water, salt, and nutritional requirements for infants and children; food value tables; methods of diet calculation, nomograms for surface area, height and weight; and a variety of conversion tables always necessary to the busy student and practitioner with a limited library at hand.

In the fifth edition of the Mitchell and Nelson "Textbook of Pediatrics" it is apparent that every effort has been made to provide a most up-to-date, complete, and practical textbook of medicine as it relates to infants and children. It should have no difficulty in maintaining its position as an outstanding textbook of medicine, and will be of value not only to the student and pediatrician but to others in all fields of medicine.

* * *

THE ARTHROPATHIES—A Handbook of Roentgen Diagnosis. By Alfred A. DeLorimer, M.D., Radiologist, St. Francis Hospital, San Francisco, formerly Commandant, the Army School of Roentgenology. Second edition. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Orange Street, Chicago. 1949. \$7.00.

This second edition of this book, one of a series of monographs on roentgenological topics, has been augmented with more written material. Several new illustrations are used, and the system of marking indicators has been clarified. The book is in three major parts: The peripheral joints, the spine, and temporomandibular joints. Emphasis is placed on the appearance of the soft tissues as well as the bones, for soft tissues often show earlier manifestations of the disease. Common technical errors are discussed, and the value of high KV technique is argued. Considerable material which

is primarily bone disease is discussed because of associated joint involvement. The book is organized to make ready reference easy. Despite the small size of the book, its cuts are satisfactory, and this volume is one which should prove of interest and value to all radiologists and others interested in joint disease. Dr. DeLorimer has threaded his way through the maze of different joint diseases in a clear and succinct manner.

* * *

MEDICAL DISEASES OF THE KIDNEY (An Atlas and Introduction). By J. F. A. McManus, M.D., Associate Professor of Pathology, the Medical College of Alabama, Birmingham. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1950. \$6.00.

The backbone of this small book consists of one hundred large illustrations of renal lesions, virtually all of them photomicrographs and most of them showing details of kidney tissue as stained by the periodic acid-Schiff's reagent technique. The illustrations are beautiful, revealing structure never before seen by at least one reader. It is perhaps not the fault of the stimulating text that its quality is not quite up to that of the illustrative material. One hopes the typographical errors will be corrected in later editions. The work is highly recommended specifically to all who are interested in renal lesions and to all thoughtful physicians.

* * *

CLINICAL NEUROLOGY. By Bernard J. Alpers, M.D., Sc.D. (Med.), Professor of Neurology, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. 240 Illustrations. Second Edition. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$9.50.

The second edition of this textbook of neurology presents few departures from the original, but in general has been adequately brought up to date in a field that is evolving a more dynamic concept in recent years.

The book is rather more complete than the usual text, and may be considered rather voluminous for the medical student not contemplating specialization in neurology. However, the section devoted to examination of the nervous system is very good, and for this reason the book is especially valuable to the student. Equally, it is sufficiently complete to serve as a reference work adequate to the practitioner who, although not a specialist, needs to treat patients with neurological disease.

The form of presentation used is simple and direct. There is perhaps a tendency for dogmatic statements in fields in which some controversy remains, but this is not a serious disadvantage to the student, and allowances may be made for it by the neurologist. The work is probably as good a single volume text on neurology as is at present available.

* * *

METHODS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH—Volume 2. By J. H. Comroe, Jr., M.D., Editor-in-Chief. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago, Illinois. 1950. \$6.50.

The first volume in this series was reviewed favorably, even enthusiastically, in *CALIFORNIA MEDICINE*. The present volume is up to the high standard set by the earlier one.

The first of the three sections in this book deals with methods of study of the bacterial viruses (the bacteriophages) for 73 pages. The next section devotes 170 pages to pulmonary function tests (the topics include measurements upon respired gases, measurements on arterial blood, and specific tests of pulmonary function). The third section (97 pages) deals with the assay of certain hormone secretions, with particular reference to anterior pituitary hor-